

1. Please provide additional information about the transition that would occur if ASFMC takes over the survey in 2005. Would the contractor be responsible to conduct some portion of the work in 2005?

ANSWER: If the ASMFC and ACCSP decide that they want to take over conduct of the intercept survey, and if available funds exist to do so (assuming they may be more expensive), then sometime in 2004-2005, we would begin a transition. This transition would consist of approximately six months of intercept sampling by the ASMFC and member states, independent of the contractor sampling. The ASMFC would need to learn how to perform all the intercept contractor functions. Training them to assume those responsibilities would be the responsibility of the NMFS MRFSS staff, not the contractor. The contractor would be given preference at sites where two interviewers (contract and ASMFC) may be scheduled, so there should be minimal impacts on the contractor's operations. After the ASMFC is seen to be successfully performing the work, no further delivery orders would be submitted to the contractor and that contract would end. This is a similar process to the transition that occurred with the GSMFC in 1999.

While it is impossible to predict completely whether there would be work for the intercept contractor during 2005, the government thinks that there is a good chance there will be. The schedule set out by ASMFC is thought by some to be optimistic in terms of: 1) gaining consensus from all the Atlantic states (currently seven states want to conduct the intercept sampling while the other seven have shown little to no interest in doing so, for a variety of reasons); and 2) it will take a while to develop individual state and commission budgets, and if they cost more, to gain congressional and/or ACCSP funding for any increase. (No changes to the solicitation.)

2. Page 37 of Amendment 1, under section L.8 states that "The Government will provide standardized spreadsheets on diskette and on the web site for offerors to enter state sub-contract associated costs in order to speed evaluations. Per unit prices should be entered only to the nearest cent. No sample sizes are provided or needed. Offerors will be required to provide magnetic copies of costs using the standard spreadsheets." We are unable to find the spreadsheet referenced in the text.

ANSWER: A spreadsheet for the state subcontracts is provided in Amendment No. 0002.